

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 15 No. 11

April 2006

Editor: Andrew Chilvers (01905 641986)

Editorial Team: *Martley:* Alan Boon (01886 888527), Nellie Bradley (01886 888339), Kate King (01886 888439), Beth Williams (01886 888273) *Wichenford:* Janet Andrews (01886 888303), Sheila Richards (01886 888378)

Advertising: Neil Stammers (01886 888513)

Distribution: *Martley* George & June Lawrence (01886 821064) *Wichenford* Bill & Jo Root (01886 888585)

Contact The Villager: leave articles at Martley Post Office, call Janet or Sheila (Wichenford) or email the Editor at editor@martley.org.uk

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of The Villager. The Villager cannot be held responsible for any goods or services advertised in the magazine

Regular events in Martley and Wichenford:

Sundays

2nd Sunday in the month:

Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers meet Church car park

3rd Sunday in the month:

Walking Not Working with the Path-or-Nones. Meet 9.30am Village Hall car park to help survey the footpaths

Mondays

1st Monday in the month:

Martley Parish Council 8pm Memorial Hall

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowling 2.30pm Martley Memorial Hall (2pm winter months)

Wichenford Ladies' Fellowship 2.30pm
2nd Tuesday in the month (usually)

Wednesdays

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing
7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

Martley Folk Club: 1st Wednesday in the month at The Admiral Rodney

Martley WI: 2nd Wednesday in the month 7.30pm Sport Martley

Thursdays

Wichenford Wine Club: 3rd Thursday in the month

Martley & District Horticultural Society: last Thursday in the month
7.30pm Martley Memorial Hall

Other events:

Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley

Telephone Service: Mon & Tue 10am—
3pm Thu 10am— 7.30pm **Great Witley**

& Knightwick Surgeries: Weds 10am -
4pm - by appt. 01584 810860

See Church Words for details of services

See articles inside for details of special events AND changes of times or dates of regular events

See the Diary page on www.martley.org.uk for a complete listing of all forthcoming events (that the Diary page Editor knows about)

Articles to go in The Villager must be with the Editor by the 1st of the previous month

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



April is the cruellest month—or is it?

Actually April is probably one of the kindest months of the year, heralding spring and generally cheering everyone up after the long, cold months of winter.

So bring on those April showers and here's to Lilacs breeding out of the dead land.

April was the second month in an early Roman calendar, but became the fourth when the ancient Romans started using January as the first month. The Romans called the month Aprilis. It may come from a word meaning 'to open', or it may come from Aphrodite, the Greek name for the goddess of love.

Eostre monath was the Anglo-Saxon term for the month and the name was later adopted by Christians as the holy

festival of Easter.

Small animals that hibernate are usually coming out of their burrows in April. The birds fly back northward or they settle down to have their families. The bees and butterflies begin to gather nectar from the first flowers of the season.

Special days celebrated in April begin with the first day of April, when children and grown-ups play jokes on one another. Arbor Day is a day for planting trees, and it is observed on various April days. The Jewish festival of Pescah (Passover) is celebrated early in April. Easter is almost always in April, and with it comes other Christian celebrations such as Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

April Fool's Day is the first day of April. No one knows where the custom began, but some historians believe it started in France. They had a New Year's festival that was celebrated from March 25 to April 1, and they would then exchange gifts. But later King James IV changed the holiday to January 1 for New Year. The people that still celebrated April 1 were called 'April fish' and sent mock presents.

April Fools' Day may also be related to the ancient Roman spring festival Hilaria, which celebrates the resurrection of the god Attis.

Martley WI

Wednesday 12 April 7.30pm at Heaton House

Wow, what secrets were spilt at our February meeting when we heard the gossip about the “goings-on” of (no, not the present members) Kings, Queens and mistresses. It was a fascinating trip through history and we were left thinking that most of us could have a few drops of blue blood in our veins.

This month the speaker will be Bernard Mills telling of shopping over 200 years. What a difference the coming of supermarkets must have made in the middle of the 20th century. The competition is for the most attractive paper serviette. Social time may be tea and chatter or something more stressful. Come along and find out.

Kate King

Simple Solutions

Apple facial mask (for oily or acne-prone skin).

Mix together 1 medium-size apple (finely grated), 5 tablespoons honey and enough yogurt to make a creamy consistency, adding a sprinkling of cinnamon (optional). Smooth over your skin and leave for 10 minutes. Rinse off with cool water.

Source: Women's Environmental Network

NB: If you don't fancy it on your face, you could try it with your breakfast cereal perhaps.

Martley ramblers

*Sunday 9 April
2pm Church Car Park.*

We have been led up hill and down dale by Eileen and Neil Stammers when we had to follow their lead, and at the time of writing were due to



be taken by Helen and George Coombey-Jones where ere they feel like wandering. This month may be on more familiar ground when Pam Southall takes us “around Malvern on the level”. Is that possible? We shall have to wait and see. Meet at the church car park for a quick get-away at 2pm.

Annual dinner. Some 26 members enjoyed the annual dinner held at the Eagle and Sun, Droitwich. The quiz resulted in a tie between Ian Underhill and Alex Walker. Alex walked away with the prize of a warm woolly hat and gloves after drawing the short straw. Many thanks to secretary Pam Bowers for all the arrangements.

Kate King

Pudford Lane

It is “Hello” and “Goodbye” time ...

hello to the new four legged arrivals coming en masse and bringing sleepless nights and early morning vigils to their owners. Goodbye to Kate and Steve from Willow barn. We hope they will be happy in their new abode. It was a sad goodbye when several residents went to Shelsley Beauchamp to bid farewell to Des Porter. He and Jane had lived in the lane for many years before moving to somewhere a little bit more accessible. One thing to be thankful for is that the months of care and sleepless nights suffered by sheep farmers are not as long lasting or expensive as the years caused by two legged offspring.

Questions grandchildren ask – “If cows are bovine and horses are equine, are sheep ovine or sheepine”? Chambers dictionary is not clear.

Kate King

Martley & District Horticultural Society

In spite of it being a very cold and wet evening, there was a good attendance of members at the February meeting of the Society. Barbara Kirby, chairman, welcomed everyone and introduced the speaker for the evening, Stan Yapp, talking about mistletoe. Stan holds a very close association with the well-known Tenbury Market Mistletoe Sales, the leading seller of mistletoe in the country. The areas of Worcestershire and Herefordshire are among some of the best in the country for the growing of mistletoe, with many coun-

tries around the world taking an interest in this plant. The apple trees are the best host for the production of this plant. We have, however, lost a lot of older apple trees in recent years. This will no doubt decrease the production of mistletoe, but will continue to survive in other species of trees such as hawthorn and London plane, but seldom found in the oak tree.

Mistletoe is produced in many varieties and different coloured foliage. All varieties contain male and female species, but only the female produces berries. Over the years, mistletoe has been considered pagan, but in recent years it has been used in church decorations and wedding bouquets. Mistletoe sales have been held in Tenbury for 130 years.

At the meeting on Thursday 27 April at 7.30pm in Martley Village Hall, the speaker will now be Roy Fowler talking about “Barn Owls”, not as published in the programme for 2006.

Nellie Bradley

In memoriam—Rosemary Elizabeth Cross

Richard Cross, along with his daughter Alison and son Robert of New House Farm, Martley, would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy sent at the time of their sad loss of Rosemary, who died on 15 February. Rosemary had battled against her illness for 19 years with courage and determination, and always with dignity. She was a wonderful

wife, mother and grandmother, who will leave a void in our lives that can never be filled.

Bingo night for Macmillan nurses

Thank you to all those who attended the bingo night in aid of Macmillan nurses on 3 March. Some 83 people supported this evening and £782 was raised primarily to help provide another Macmillan Nurse for Martley and district. Thank you to everyone who donated some magnificent prizes, gave so generously of their time and to all who turned up on the night.

Dorrie Goodyear

Chantry news

Theatre group visits school

On Monday 13th March, a theatre group visited the school to present two plays supporting subjects being covered in year 7 and year 9 history lessons. The group performed 'Doomed Youth', a play about the experiences of four people in the First World War for year 9 and followed on in the afternoon with the play to year 7 called the 'Time Tunnel'.

Forthcoming educational trips

During the spring term there are a number of trips being undertaken by the pupils as part of their lessons in History, Geography and Modern Languages.

There will be trips to a number of cas-

ties to look at fortifications, a trip to Llanrug for outward bound activities and in June a number of pupils are going to France to practice their French and look at French village life.

Technology block extensions

The building work for the extension to the technology block is due to start in April. Alterations and upgrades will provide much needed modernised facilities for the Food Technology Department. It is hoped that these will be up and running as soon as possible.

School drama performance – The Tempest

Vacancy

The Chantry High School,
Martley
Worcs WR6 6QA

Have you got a little time to spare?
Would you like to meet new people,
perhaps you are retired?

We have a vacancy for someone to make tea/coffee for our staff during their morning break, which is from 10.55-11.15a.m. each morning. We would like someone to come into school for approximately an hour each day to make these refreshments and then wash and clear up afterwards - £5.05 per hour.

If you think you might like to help us out, please ring 01886 887100 and ask for Anne, then Headteacher's P.A.

Chantry School has built a reputation for staging high quality musical and dramatic events. Their next production will be 'The Tempest' and will take place over three nights from the 26th - 28th April.

As usual teachers and students at the school have worked very hard to put together a professional performance of this dramatic play by Shakespeare. It is hoped that parents will give their full support by buying tickets to see the play. Tickets are available from the school.

Minibus lottery bid

A bid has been made to the Regional Lottery Fund for money towards a new minibus. This is in addition to the

regular fundraising that takes place through the 'Chantry 200 Club', the school's own lottery. If successful, this could secure up to £5,000, which would be very welcome.

Next 'Friends of Chantry' meeting: Thursday 18th May at 8 pm in the staff room

Active Kids. Martley Primary School is now saving Tesco's and Sainsbury's Active Kid vouchers and can be handed in either to the school or Martley Post Office.

Correction: There will be no Promises Auction on July 17 at 2pm as advertised in last month's Villager.

Pre-School Snippets

The children had the fabulous



opportunity of a field trip to Bishop's Wood to learn all about nature and the big outdoors. This is a real focus at the Pre-School; the children are also enjoying Welly Wednesday where they spend at least half the day outside no matter what the weather.

We would like to welcome Linda Hunt who has joined our team running the Breakfast Club. Don't forget that the Pre-School now offers Out of School Care before and after school for children up to the age of 13.

Are you Internet shopping savvy?

Do you shop at Amazon or Play.com or many of the other Internet stores? Then check out www.buy.at/martleypreschool. If you connect to the stores' websites through this fundraising site your purchase will raise money for the Pre-School at no extra cost or fuss for you!

Congratulations Corner - Happy Birthday to **Harrison Gibbins** who is three years old on the 16th of April!

Martley cricket club news

New season, new officers.

A new and exciting season is just about to get underway for Martley Cricket Club. The club has a new chairman and new president and have several new teams to play in the Worcestershire County League.

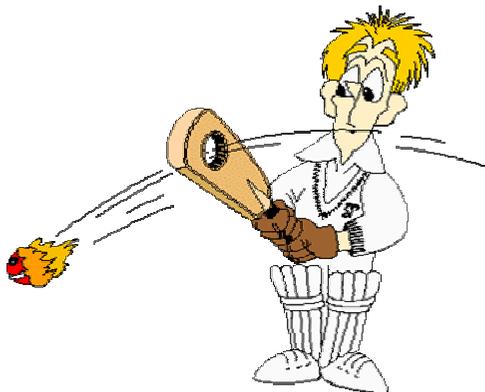
Chris 'Waz' Williams has taken over as chairman from Robert Ganderton, who has done a sterling job in recent years, but has stood down to concentrate on the Youth Section of the club. Chris played for the club for many years as a left arm medium pace bowler, but has been out for the past two seasons with a back injury.

He is very enthusiastic about his new job and wants to get more social events in the club's calendar.

Following the death of club President Don Taylor, Dave Bradley has been asked to take over as president. Dave has played for the club for over 40 years, and says he is honoured to follow in the footsteps of Don as president. The annual Mike Ganderton memorial match between the club and the Presidents Eleven will be on Sunday 6th August, when all past players will be made very welcome.

Off to Wales

In the Worcestershire County League there's some new places for the Martley boys to visit, including a trip to Wales. The Third Division has been divided into North and South sections, and included in the South section are Monmouth and Colwall, which have



both dropped out of the Counties League.

Both are very strong clubs, but Worcestershire insisted they should start at a lower level and work their way back up the league.

The club also faces a trip to Wormbridge in South Herefordshire.

Other teams in the league are old rivals such as Birlingham, Hanley Castle, Old Vigornians, Himbleton, Old Elizabethans, Rushwick, Worcester Dominees and Tenbury (although why are Tenbury are in the South division?)

The league season gets underway on Saturday 22nd April and as ever there will be a full programme of Sunday games as well.

New groundsman

The club has a new man in charge of the ground at the Jewry Field. James Basford has agreed to take on the role, with the help of club members – he hopes. The clubs players have been involved in Indoor Nets since early February and anyone who wants to join the club should contact any mem-

ber of the committee or give First Eleven skipper Richard Birchley a call on 077360 45730.

They are also anxious to contact any old members so if you are one, or know of any, then please contact dave.bradley@bbc.co.uk or call 01905 748485.

Knightwick and district Trefoil Guild

Several members attended the county "Thinking Day" ceremony at The Sacred Heart Hall in Droitwich. We all welcomed Josephine Stenersen (nee Holland who was visiting from Northern Norway) to our special Thinking Day meeting at the home of Jenny Barton.

The idea of Thinking Day is to think of Girl Guides all over the world; we sang songs from around the world, and members brought along souvenirs and talked a little of countries they had visited. Our chairman, Pat Bradley, talked about New Zealand. We had special thoughts about three of our members Sue, Chris and Eileen who were there on holiday.

Geraldine Cooper.

Martley's past

In April 1871, Harriet wrote about the Easter Holidays. She wrote "April 7, this being Good Friday, the children went to church in the morning and had a holiday in the afternoon". "April 10 (Easter Monday), the children had a

holiday this afternoon and I accompanied the first and second classes to Berrow Hill, where we spent a very pleasant afternoon and evening."

(So ended the holiday – 2 half days.)

ALB

Martley Parish Council

Held on Monday, 6th. March 2006 at the memorial hall

Present: Cllr. Mr. G. Taylor (Vice Chairman); Cllr. Mrs. D. Goodyear; Cllr. Mr. R. McHugh; Cllr. Mr. J. Slough; Cllr. Mr. G. Coombey-Jones; Cllr. Mr. N. Stammers.

In attendance: Mr. T. Pearsall (Clerk to The Parish Council), seven members of the public.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

The Chairman invited all present to ask questions or make statements about Parish business, the following points were raised:

Parking at The Talbot Inn Knightwick is causing problems; the Clerk to write to the Clerk at Knightwick.

Numbering St. Peter's Drive, no reply from MHDC; the Clerk to write to Mr. C. Bocock CEO.

The proposed seat on the green adjacent to the notice board is not yet actioned; the Clerk to contact Highways for permission.

Dog fouling has improved around Heaton House, but is now a problem on the footpath set behind the wall opposite Rogers Coaches depot.

The parking on the footpath in Mortlake Drive has improved. However, a problem exists in St. Peter's Drive; the Clerk to investigate.

The Parish Council Meeting was opened by the chairman at 8:20 pm.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs. M. Randall and Cllr. Mr. M. Nott, these were accepted.

Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests: The Clerk reminded everyone of the need to declare interests and to keep their list up to date.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 6th. February 2006: It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

Village signs and flower beds: It was resolved to install village signs and flower boxes and to replace all defective litter bins, subject to securing funding; the Clerk to produce approximate costs.

District Councillor's Report: District Cllr. Mrs. B. Williams reported that Malvern Hills District Council's portion of the Council Tax will be increased by 1.9%. The detail is reproduced in addendum 1.

There is to be a review of the conservation areas and Martley is first on the list. A public meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall in April. Additional areas that may be included are Ducton Coppice, Millennium Green and Withy Beds.

County Councillor's Report: County Councillor Mr. A. Davies confirmed last month's report that the Council Tax will rise by 4.95%. Con-

cessionary bus fares will be available from 1st. April (available to over 60s); apply via Malvern Hills District Council (The Hub) or Tenbury.

The work on Ankerdine is on target with a completion date by the end of March.

Correspondence:

Correspondence for 6th. March 2006.

1. Martley Memorial Hall; Thanks letter for grant.
2. Worcs. CALC: E-mail ref. new date for area meeting.
3. MHDC: Leaflet on Local Development Framework.
4. CPRE: Fieldwork.
5. FWAG: Managing Milk 7th. March.
6. MHDC: Standards committee agenda.
7. MHDC: Executive committee agenda.
8. N Power: Information about account (Weighbridge).
9. SLCC: Payment of SLCC subs by councils.

Martley Library

Martley Village Hall, Berrow Green Road, Martley, WR66PQ.

Tel: 01886 888396

Opening hours

Mon 2.00-7.00

Wed 4.00-7.30

Thurs 10.00-1.00

Fri 2.00-4.00

Sat 10.00-12 noon

10. Mr. Iain Selkirk: Ind. Internal auditor, offer of service.

11. Ms. Pam Spokes: Copy of letter to Chantry ref. "Damson Walk"

12. Local Works: Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill.

13. WCC: PPP end of year report (for PP Warden)

14. MHDC: Fairtrade Directory launch 7-9:30 pm. 18th. March, Priory Lodge.

15. Taylor-Made Play Equipment: Catalogue.

16. Dept. of Environment: Poster and letter ref. Flooding.

Planning:

. Applications received:

1. 06/00201/FUL Willow Green Cottage: single storey extn. And extn. to garage & extended garden curtilage; Cllr. D. Cropp

2. 06/00272/FUL Little Laurels: domestic extns. and conversion of garage to habitable; Cllr. D. Cropp.

Applications Approved/Refused/Withdrawn:

None

Other items: finance:

There were 5 cheques totalling £1092.82 for agreement and signature Income February 05: Lengthman Jan 06, £350.00. Total £350.00

Current Bank Balance Lloyds TSB
20th. Feb 06 £5329.43

Actual position 6th. March 06,
£3909.60

Deposit Acc , £7308.60

It was resolved to accept the finances and to accept Mr. Iain Selkirk as inter-

nal auditor as last year.

Parish Paths Warden Report:

The Clerk read out the report.

Weighbridge Electricity Supply:

It was agreed that the Clerk would look into the costs of changing the tariff and/or disconnecting the supply and report at the next meeting.

231-06. Communications: The Clerk requested agreement from all councillors to send minutes and agendas by email. This was agreed by those present and email addresses given; these items would continue to be sent by post to those councillors without email.

The Clerk would write to MHDC and WCC requesting help with funding for laptop computers for each councillor and a projector and screen to display planning and other items at meetings.

Urgent Decisions since last meeting:
None

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

The Clerk to write to the chairman of the Playing Fields Association expressing concern that certain groups were finding it difficult to use the field due to opposition from existing users.

It was agreed that the statement by Cllr. Mr. R. McHugh (addendum, minutes of meeting held on 6th. February) did not necessarily represent the views of all councillors.

Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting is on Monday 3rd. April 2006 at 8 p.m. (Finance committee at 7:30 p.m.)

Meeting closed at 22.04 hrs.

Addendum

Parish Paths Warden's Report

For February 2006

Great turn out—thanks guys.

We attended to:

Replacement of 2 Signposts (B4197/705 junction; B4197 / 776 junction)

Installation of 3 Waymark Posts (537-817-818 jn; 530 just north of 520 jn; 500-551-506-503-502 jn)

24 steps repaired and made safe on the path (534) through the wood to the ridge just North of Callow Farm Bridle gates, tension relieved (508--2 off); the one at 508-507-510 jn proved a little troublesome). In case you are

wondering, the automatic closure on these gates was a little fierce, giving the horses too firm a pat on their derrieres, much to the alarm of those on top.

Thanks to Peter Weddell-Hall for flattening the piles of spoil in his quarry, and to Janet Martin on Ankerdine for the first coffee of the day and to Audrey Trumper for the second.

Jon and Tom Pearsall and the writer met with Kevin Oliver and Amanda Hill from Rights of Way, to discuss the Parish Paths Partnership (p3) scheme and the growing needs of County Hall for detailed budgets for the work we do. I suppose it is the way of the bureaucratic world and as usual, brings with it much more paperwork.

JSN 6th March 2006.

Services at Martley Post Office

Banking Services: On-line banking for the following banks; Alliance and Leicester, Barclays, Lloyds TSB, Co-operative Bank and UK Smile. For each of these banks you can pay money in, pay cheques in and withdraw money all free of charge. For all other banks, the use of a cashpoint is available for a small charge of £1.50.

Shop Facilities

Services: Photo copying, faxing, laminating and DVD hire.

Film Processing: Photos from your memory cards, CDs, 35mm and APS films all processed within 24 hours and brought to you in partnership with Bromyard Post Office.

Advertising in the shop window for a small charge.

Items for purchase: Tobacco, wine, beer, a selection of spirits, soft drinks, sweets, crisps, ice cream, 35mm and APS films, disposable cameras, batteries, torches, lottery, scratch cards, greetings cards, postcards, gifts by silver scenes.

Also available: glass hire and sale or return on alcohol (glasses come free on all purchases over £50).



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Church Flower Rota

- 2 April Lent, no flowers
- 9 April Palm Sunday
- 16 April Easter decorations
- 23 April Easter decorations
- 30 April Service at Cotheridge

Wichenford Parish Church Council

The annual meeting of the church council is on 3 April, 7.45pm in the church. This meeting is open to everyone, so this is your chance to hear what the officers of the PCC have been doing over the past year, and hear how our finances are doing and ask your questions.

Do come and support them.

Ladies Fellowship

There will be a meeting of the Ladies Fellowship on 18 April at 2.30pm, venue yet to be decided.

Re-cycle your rubbish

Did you know that every year we need a forest the size of Wales to provide all the paper we need in Britain and after use 25% is thrown away. Cans,



Janet Andrews
01886 888303

Sheila Richards
01886 888378

both steel and aluminium, can be recycled into new cars, 'fridges and more cans. Plastic bottles can be turned into fleece material for insulating materials, clothing and more bottles for further use. In fact almost everything can be recycled, saving more landfill sites.

Following changes in government laws, all councils now provide sites for household waste and facilities for disposal of 'fridges, freezers and other electrical equipment'.

In fact, the Organisation of Waste Management is tremendous and, of course, costly. So, it is up to us, the general public and households, to support them in what is essential for the future of our world. After all, they have made it so easy for us.

P D Webb

Wichenford Village Fete

This year the fete will be held on Saturday 29 July at 2pm in the paddock adjoining the Memorial Hall by kind

permission of the owners. On Monday 3 April at 7.30pm, a meeting will be held in Wichenford Memorial Hall to arrange the fete. Please join us at the meeting and bring your ideas.

Prize Bingo

Bingo will be held on Friday 7 April at Wichenford Memorial Hall, proceeds in aid of Martley Spurs. Doors open at 7pm and eyes down at 7.45pm.

In memoriam: Thomas "Harry" Burnett

On 11 February 2006, after a demanding struggle with a long illness, Harry passed away peacefully in hospital with his wife Gwen at his side.

Born in Yorkshire in 1920, he commenced his working life with the GPO and, while a member of the Territorial Army, enlisted into the armed services in 1939 where he served as a regular soldier until he left in 1953 with the rank of sergeant.

Harry was very proud of his military career and, having survived the evacuation from Dunkirk and participation in the Normandy landings, felt privileged to have followed in his father's footsteps in the service of his King and country.

During his service life, he met and married Gwen while stationed in Essex, where they settled and raised their son and two daughters. In the early 1980s, like many others, Harry was the victim of company cost cutting and was made redundant, at which time he and Gwen decided to retire to Worcestershire to be closer to their son, Mike. Harry was a very private man and, although not one for socialising, he soon

came to appreciate the sense of community and the rural beauty of his newly adopted home.

He was devoted to his family, and loved his home, garden, shed and local animals and birdlife. In particular, he was very fond of 'his' special little robin that regularly visited him in the garden (although the family knew that the little bird belonged to everyone else in Wichenford too!).

We send our deepest sympathy to Gwen and her family. Harry will be very sadly missed.

Thank you

Gwen, Mike, Caroline and their families would like to express their sincerest thanks for the numerous messages of condolence and the compassionate and caring support from so many.

This is helping them come to terms with the loss of Harry Burnett. Many thanks also for the generous charitable donations received in support of prostate cancer research, respiratory disease research and Wichenford Church. Finally, our thanks to Rev David Sherwin and Rev Jennifer Whittaker for visiting Harry at home, hospital and nursing home, and for their quiet spiritual guidance in leading him to find eternal peace. Thank you all so much.

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th February 2006 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Cllr K.Randall chaired the meeting. (Vice Chair).

Present: Cllr D Stinton, Cllr J .Panton, Cllr J. Wells, Cllr N. Oldfield, Cllr H. Rendall

In attendance: Mrs S Sanders (Clerk to the Parish Council)

District Councillor B Williams.

Democratic half hour/public question time.

The chairman invited all present to ask questions or make statements about parish business.

Apologies.

Cllr G. Britten-Long (Chairman) (accepted) Cllr M. Andrews (accepted) County Councillor A. Davies.

Declaration of interest

Cllrs D. Stinton and K. Randall declared a personal interest in Wichenford Memorial Hall.

Progress reports

B4204 meeting with highways.

Cllrs met with the highways department on the B4204 to discuss the proposed new traffic management measures. Hopefully they will adopt our ideas as we were not happy with all

the signage proposed. The 2 Corners at Laughern Hill will now have a Max 30mph sign, which will hopefully slow down the traffic, and more reflector posts will also be installed. The front of Kenswick Manor at the exit/entrance will now have red gravel in a long oval which will hopefully slow the traffic at this particular point.

No tapley test was done on Kenswick corner, which the highways have agreed to do and the signs will be put in place as soon as this is completed.

The parish council would like the highways department to consider density development not frontage development which the national criteria states.

Planning

Masons Arms planning appeal

The parish council is in the process of completing a letter with further representation against the proposal to the planning inspectorate.

Representations have also been made from Wildwatch and the CPRE opposing the removal of the hedgerow from Venn Lane. We will enclose a map of 1786 with our representations that show the hedge on Venn lane.

We will also include a copy of the traffic survey of Venn lane, which shows the amount of traffic, and in our opinion why this is more dangerous than the existing entrance.

Quality tour.

Malvern Hills District Council has organised a quality tour for district

councillors to assess the impact of planning decisions and development on the ground and would like Parish Councils to nominate sites for members to visit and consider.

Planning applications on-line.

Malvern Hills District Council have introduced a new element to the planning services pages on the council's website, which enables the public and other users to submit a planning application or view plans and representations on-line.

Local development framework- update

The clerk was asked to order some more leaflets so that every councillor could have one. Update from MHDC was read out.

Pre application planning advice

The guidance notes sent by MHDC were mentioned and the clerk was requested to order extra copies for councillors to have a copy each and to keep on file for future reference.

The Re-Use of Rural Buildings (SPD) This has been seen by all the councillors and their comments were read for inclusion.

Applications considered since the last meeting.

Proposed infill of driftway to create morning room off existing kitchen.

The parish council had no objections to this application.

Decisions made by MHDC

None

Kingsgreen

Cllr Rendall has spoken to the residents living near the green who have no objections to wooden posts being erected to prevent further damage from vehicles.

The highways dept have been approached and providing the posts have reflectors on and are at least 1 metre in from the roads edge, then they don't have a problem. It's up to the parish council to protect the green. Cllr wells will make the posts, which will be placed approx 2 metres apart with a reflector disc on each.

Finance

The income/expenditure account was discussed and accepted. The current bank balance up to 31st January 2006 stands at £8,165.82.

There were 4 cheques totalling £981.65 for agreement and signature. The Lengthsman has already been paid for the month of January.

The acceptance of the finances was resolved.

Parish Council computer

The clerk approached the council for the maximum amount that could be spent on a computer as there are so many prices.

It was resolved that £750.00 inc vat was the limit.

Wichenford memorial hall

The Memorial Hall has got to have

the toilets refurbished and the Committee has approached the parish council asking if they would be prepared to purchase the materials as they can reclaim the VAT.

After discussion, the Parish Council had no objections in principle to this suggestion.

Highways

Guises Lane/Rosses Lane update.

The temporary TRO's on Guises and Rosses Lane have now been extended until the end of August. The closure has been advertised and we should see a final status report.

Councillor Wells reported that the gully at Meadow view can no longer be seen as it is covered in soil and sat back further in. The gully grate has been dragged away from the gully by a machine and is not over the actual gully. (Clerk to write to highways)

The clerk was asked to chase up the missing sign at dirty lane.

Milestone.

The milestone on the B4204 was found by Cllr Rendall and cleared by the lengthsman.

The milestone society asked the council if they would like a mileage plate made. It will be cast iron and will cost approx £50.00

The council resolved to get a plate made.

Councillors' training

No one is able to attend the forthcoming training events.

Annual Parish meeting

The clerk explained that the chairman is unable to make the 18th April and would like the council to consider a new date.

The vice chairman agreed to take the meeting and it was resolved to keep to the 18th April as this has already been changed once. Cllr Wells sent his apologies for this meeting as he is away on holiday.

To report any urgent decisions since the last meeting

The clerk reported that Cllr Wells and the lengthsman found a lot of rubbish dumped in the ditch on the lay-by on the B4204. An address was found in one of the bags, which have been sent to the district council, who will send a fine to the offender. The clerk has asked for the length of the B4204 from Broadheath to the Masons Arms to be cleared.

Also it has been reported to the clerk that a large number of bottles have been tipped in the ditch on Venn Lane. This has also been reported and still waiting to be cleared. (Clerk will chase up.)

Cllr Wells has reported a youth to PC Naulls for using his mini-moto around the village and on Bulmers land . Not only is it a noise nuisance but it is also dangerous as he has no helmet, or insurance.

Correspondence included

ODPM Standards of Conduct in English Local Government (returned by

Cllr Rendall). Responses From WCC re Rosses Lane/Guises Lane.

MHDC letter regarding NHS Recon-figurations.

MHDC Platinum awards for business excellence, Land Registry Voluntary Registration, Calc Training and information, Freecycle, Vision 21, ROSPA, MHDC police/Community Consultative group meetings, Nalc Draft Guidance on Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act.

West Mercia Police Authority Business Case Summary, WCC highways Partnership Meeting, WCC Minerals and Waste development scheme, Council Precept for 2006/07, Future Travel in Malvern Hills District Meeting, Worcester Warden Newsletter, Newline Magazine.

Councillor's reports and items for future agenda.

Parish Link.

Councillor Panton attended the latest parish link meeting and reported that the money from the Countryside agency has run out, but the county council has given a grant of £35,000 to keep it running. The fares remain the same.

From April 2006, pensioners who use the parish link will travel for free if they produce their pass. There will also be a free week in March for anyone who uses it.

The next parish link meeting is March 13th, and a new timetable is due in April.

Cllr Wells reported that both he and

Cllr Rendall attended the PPW meeting at Worcester Rugby Club. 150 people attended. The new definitive map was issued and has caused huge controversy as every footpath has been renumbered. Footpath numbers are now in 100s.

Kenswick and Wichenford has 50 metres of footpaths, it is the 15th largest in the county. Kenswick has 6 metres and Wichenford has 44 metres.

2 kiss gates have been ordered for either end of footpath 1 Kenswick and for pig bridge. The county council will supply all furniture free of charge.

A deep ditch crossing has been ordered for FP24 from Abingdons to Hill Farm.

A recent report in the paper said that Wichenfords footpaths have improved considerably.

FP15 at Poplar Road has at last been cleared and a kiss gate is to be installed.

The parish council proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Rendall and Wells for all the hard work they have put in to improve the footpaths in the parish.

Date and venue of next meeting

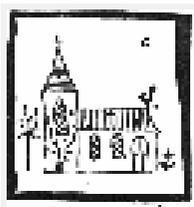
To confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for 10th April at 7.30pm

18th April 2006 Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45/8pm.

All in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Shirley Sanders Clerk to the Council (01886 888302)



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

A very joyful Easter to you all

Greetings are very important to us, and every culture has its own ways of greeting. In some countries in Europe, men greet with a kiss. Here it's a handshake, in Japan a bow, elsewhere a hug. We also have our own family greetings. A greeting conveys how welcome someone is and a way of introduction. I do occasionally get refused a handshake as I offer it, but that may be saying that the person does not wish to be associated with the church rather than me. I don't know. Whatever we say and however we offer our greeting, it conveys something of us to the other person.

The traditional Christian greeting of Easter, which dates back to the early church, is "Alleluia Christ is risen"; the reply, "He is risen indeed Alleluia".

It captures the excitement and importance of the basis of our faith. For the Bible tells us that if Jesus did not rise from the dead, we are of all people to be pitied and miserable. Yet we are not. I cannot promise a Christian will not be miserable sometimes, but I can say that whatever I may face in life, the risen Lord Jesus goes with me.

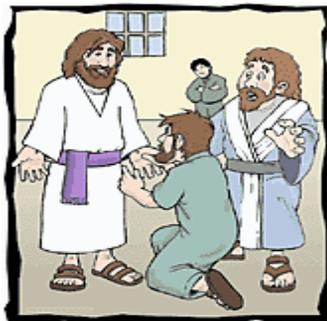
Through the highs and the lows, the joys and the sorrows, in life and in death, he is with us always.

As I wish you a joyful Easter, I am telling you something that has happened, that is over and complete, yet it still has impact on us every day. If someone returns into your life after an absence of some time, a relative or friend, there are changes to be made to accommodate them so that the greeting conveys its reality.

The reality of the person's presence is with us each day. The same is true of Jesus if he is risen, and says that he is with us always, and we greet him into our lives. To do this we have to make room for him. In all we do and say, at work and play, with family and friends, he too is our friend.

May the presence of the risen Lord Jesus be with you now and always.

"Alleluia Christ is risen"; the reply, "He is risen indeed Alleluia".



A very joyful Easter to you all.

Revd David Sherwin

Church diary for April

Saturday 1st April 9.00-10.30am Benefice Prayer Group, Martley
Sunday 2nd April 8.00am Holy Communion, Knightwick Chapel
9.30am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford
10.00am Worship & LTV PCC AGM, St Mary Magdalene
11.00am Family Worship, St Peter Martley
6.30pm Evensong, St Leonard, Cotheridge
6.30pm Youth Service, St Peter Martley
Monday 3rd April 9.00am Morning Prayer, St Laurence, Wichenford
7.45pm Wichenford PCC AGM, St Laurence Church
Tuesday 4th April 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
11.00-12.30 Lent Course, Nora Parsons Day Centre
8.00pm Lent Course, home of George & June Lawrence
Wednesday 5th April 4.30pm Evening Prayer, St Leonard, Cotheridge
7.30pm Martley PCC AGM, St Peter's Church
Thursday 6th April 7.30pm Lent Course at the Rectory
Sunday 9th April Palm Sunday
11.00am Benefice Service at Laylocks Garden Centre
6.30pm Palm Sunday dramatic presentation,
St Laurence, Wichenford
Monday 10th April 9-12am, 3 hour prayers & devotion, Knightwick
Chapel
9.00pm Compline, St Laurence, Wichenford
Tuesday 11th April 9.00pm Compline, St Peter Martley
Wed 12th April 10.15am Holy Communion, Heaton House
9.00pm Compline, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
Thursday 13th April 2.00pm Little Minnows, St Peter Martley
7.30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, St Peter Martley
Friday 14th April All Churches across the Benefice will be open
12noon-3.00pm, 3 hour devotion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
9.00pm Compline, St Leonard, Cotheridge
Saturday 15th April 9.00pm Tenebre Service, Knightwick Chapel
Sunday 16th April Easter Day
8.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard, Cotheridge
11.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
11.00am Holy Communion, , St Peter Martley
11.00am Holy Communion, , St Laurence, Wichenford
3.00pm Celtic Communion, , Knightwick Chapel

Continued overleaf

In the Garden



Spring is finally here. What a beautiful time of the year with the rhododendrons, magnolias, camellias, forsythia and all the other spring flowering plants reaching their peak of beauty. There are a few things one can do to help keep the garden looking its best the rest of this season. Remember what is accomplished early in the season will help cut down on garden maintenance the rest of year. So here are a few April garden projects.

Watering. Be sure to take a little time to check the plants under the eaves of the house and under tall evergreens to see that they are getting sufficient moisture. In some cases, plants in these locations are bone-dry and in

desperate need of watering. Container plantings should also be given watering attention. Speaking of watering, mulching flower and shrub beds will cut down on water consumption later this summer. Likewise, aerating the lawn will allow water to penetrate deeper into the lawn soil, so it should not be necessary to use as much water to keep the lawn looking nice this summer.

Planting fruits. Spring is a great time to select and plant fruit trees and berry plants. Local garden outlets have their finest selection of both types of plants at this time of year. All types of fruits and berries do best when planted in full sun.

Summer flowering bulbs. April is the month for planting summer flowering bulbs like dahlias, glads and lilies. Mix bulb fertilizer, processed manure and peat moss into the planting soil. Tuberous begonias should not be set outdoors until all danger of frost has passed.

Church diary for April (continued)

Tuesday 18th April 10.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas

Sunday 23rd April 8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas
30am Holy Communion, St Peter Martley

11.00am Family Worship, St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas

11.00am Holy Communion, St Laurence, Wichenford

6.30pm Evening Worship, St Peter Martley

Tuesday 25th April 4.30pm Evening Prayer at St Johns Parish Church

Wed 26th April 10.15 Songs of Praise, Heaton House

Sunday 30th April 6.30pm Songs of Praise, St Leonard, Cotheridge

Village Contacts



Editor of The Villager	Andrew Chilvers editor@martley.org.uk <i>or</i> 01905 641986 <i>or</i> leave articles at the Martley Post Office
Advertise in The Villager	Neil Stammers neil.stammers@btinternet.c om <i>or</i> 01886 888513
Church	Rector: Revd David Sherwin—01886 888664 Curate: Revd Jennifer Whittaker—01886 833897
Martley Website	webmaster@martley.org.uk
Martley Parish Council	Chair: Dave Cropp—01886 888398; Clerk: Tom Pearsall—01886 888256
Martley WI	Gwynn Darby—01886 888490
Martley & Dist Hort. Soc.	Pam Minchin—01886 888521 <i>or</i> Margaret Jackson—01886 888654
Royal British Legion	Joyce Tyler—01886 821551
Martley Ramblers	Harry King—01886 888439
Wichenford contacts for The Villager	Janet Andrews—01886 888303, Sheila Richards— 01886 888378
Resource Centre	Alan Boon—01886 888527
Kenswick & Wichenford Parish Counl.	Clerk—Shirley Sanders 01886 888302
Wichenford Wine Club	Secretary—Mike Holmes 01905 641739
Trefoil Guild	geraldine.cooper@btopenw orld.com